

Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 SY-04 SCCT-01 MC-01 AID-05

NIC-01 OPR-01 SCS-03 USSS-00 OC-01 CCO-00 SSO-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /063 W

----- 109062

R 042202Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8700

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

DIA DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 8077

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS OF ASSASSINATION FEDERAL POLICE CHIEF

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8036 (NOTAL)

1. POLICE ARE STILL INVESTIGATING VILLAR ASSASSINATION. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER BOMB WAS DETONATED BY TIMING DEVICE ACTIVATED BY IGNITION OF MOTOR OR BY REMOTE CONTROL APPARATUS.

2. MONTONEROS REPORTEDLY HAVE CLAIMED CREDIT FOR ASSASSINATION. AMERICAN NEWSMEN TELL US MONTONERO STATEMENT LINKED VILLAR WITH AAA AND CIA AND ACCUSED HIM OF BEING A TORTURER. STATEMENT EXPRESSED REGRETS OVER MRS. VILLAR'S DEATH, BUT SAID VILLAR HIMSELF HAD GOT WHAT HE DESERVED.

3. MONTONEROS HAVE NOT DENIED STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO THEM; HENCE, IT IS ASSUMED THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE. EVEN SO, IT IS CLEAR THEY HAD INSIDE ASSISTANCE. ONLY VILLAR AND WIFE
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WERE ABOARD LAUNCH WHEN BOMB WENT OFF. BODYGUARDS, AIDES

AND BOAT ATTENDANTS WERE ALL STANDING ON DOCK. MANY OF LATTER HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND ARE BEING INVESTIGATED FOR POSSIBLE COLLUSION.

4. SO FAR, THERE HAVE BEEN NO OBVIOUS REPRISALS FOR VILLAR KILLING. IT WOULD BE SURPRISING, HOWEVER, IF AAA DID NOT SOON RETALIATE. OTHERWISE, LEVEL OF VIOLENCE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN INCREASED BY INCIDENT. MASSIVE WAVE OF VIOLENCE FROM LEFT WHICH SOME SOURCES BELIEVED VILLAR ASSASSINATION PORTENDED HAS NOT MATERIALIZED--AT LEAST AS OF THE MOMENT.

5. VILLAR ASSASSINATION HAS NONETHELESS DISTURBED GOA AND MAY LEAD TO SOME REFOCUS ON SECURITY MEASURES. IF THERE WAS ANYONE WHO SHOULD HAVE HAD ADEQUATE PROTECTION IT WAS VILLAR.

6. VILLAR WAS NOT POPULAR, EVEN WITHIN FEDERAL POLICE--THOUGH HE WAS RESPECTED FOR HIS TOUGHNESS. THERE ARE FEW WHO WILL GENUINELY MOURN HIM. IN LONG RUN, PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION RAISED BY HIS VIOLENT DEMISE IS THAT OF REPLACEMENT. BOTH VILLAR AND DEPUTY CHIEF MARGARIDE WERE LOPEZ REGA APPOINTEES. SPECULATION IS THAT LOPEZ REGA NOW HOPES TO MOVE MARGARIDE UP TO BE CHIEF, OR FAILING THAT TO MOVE IN ANOTHER OF HIS HENCHMEN. ANTI-LOPEZ REGA FORCES, ON OTHER HAND, OBVIOUSLY HOPE APPOINTMENT WILL GO TO SOMEONE NOT IDENTIFIED WITH SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER. (UNCONFIRMED RADIO REPORTS AS MESSAGE WAS BEING TYPED INDICATE MARGARIDE WILL BE NEW CHIEF. WHETHER THIS IS MORE THAN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT, HOWEVER, REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
HILL

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